

Woodland Words of Wisdom



U S D A N R C S

S T P A U L M N

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Oak tatters may be caused by agricultural herbicides.
- Near snow needs to be considered when designing living snow fences.
- American hazelnut in conservation practices enhance wildlife habitats.
- Gypsy moths are threatening northeastern MN.

WELCOME TO WOODLAND WORDS OF WISDOM

Welcome to the first volume of "Woodland Words of Wisdom" a newsletter published by the MN NRCS Staff Forester, Ginger Kopp. In this forum important, interesting and challenging articles about trees, shrubs, conservation practices, program policy and fascinating facts will be published once a quarter. You are encouraged to distribute this newsletter to all partners and with the public as suitable.

Some of the information will be summaries coming from other agency publications, newsletters and notices which you may or may not be getting currently and may not have time to read. This newsletter will remain one-page front and back so you

can scan for highlights or interest before choosing to read the complete article. There will be source information for you to follow for most of the articles if you need more information. If



no source is present, contact me for any questions at: ginger.kopp@mn.usda.gov.

Some topics will cover what other states or other agencies are doing that are unique,

creative and worth considering. Other articles will be informational; and perhaps a few controversial. Please keep in mind this newsletter will be distributed state-wide so some issues, problems or concerns will not cover your area. I will tailor information to ecological zones as appropriate. You are encouraged to submit articles or to suggest topics that you feel need to be covered. I hope you enjoy this issue.

Ginger Kopp, editor
Staff Forester



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Words of Welcome	1
Oak Tatters	1
Near and Far Snow	2
American Hazelnut	2
Gypsy Moth Update	2

AVOID OAK TATTERS

The condition known as oak tatters or oak leaf tatters seems to be caused by chemical drift during spraying of certain chemicals on corn and soybeans at the time oak leaves are appearing. White, bur and swamp white oaks are more susceptible than red oaks. The symptoms occur

about 45 days after spraying. The leaves are smaller and lighter in color than normal healthy leaves and look lacy or 'tattered'. The condition exists throughout the entire crown and tree size does not matter. Nearby woodland trees are not affected. Fortunately, the affected leaves fall off and the

tree produces new normal leaves. However, the energy needed to re-leaf may steal nutritional resources needed if seasonal stresses such as drought occur. The whole article can be found at:

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/fid/may05/part3.pdf>

TECH TOPICS: NEAR VS. FAR SNOW

An effective living snow fence may need reinforcements if blow ice forms on roads from *in front* of a snow fence.

Snow blowing from a long distance is called "far snow" while snow blowing from in front of a snow fence is "near snow", refer to diagram at right.

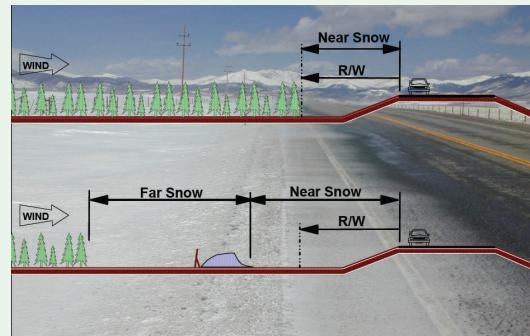
Blow ice or drifting snow across roads can be controlled with stiff-stemmed herbaceous vegetation.

NRCS has 3 practices that can be used to control blow ice: Herbaceous Wind Barriers, Code 603;

Cross Wind Trap Strips, Code 589C and Hedgerow Planting, Code 422. View these in Section IV, eFOTG at: <http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx?Fips=27123&MenuName=menuMN.zip>

EQIP can be used to establish these practices. The Continuous CRP has a Cross Wind Trap Strip practice.

MNDOT has an incentive program for farmers to leave standing corn rows or stiff-stemmed grasses such as switchgrass. Contact MNDOT at: http://www.livingsnowfence.dot.state.mn.us/standing_corn_rows.html.



Near snow is a drift that forms in front of a snow fence (downwind) that is a latent source of blowing and drifting snow. As the snow blows across roads, it may freeze causing a serious road hazard.

Image: Characteristics of Blowing and Drifting Snow, Dr. Ron Tabler, Tabler & Associates.

HAZELNUTS IN CONSERVATION

"... but the
hazels rose
Tall and erect,
with tempting
clusters hung,
A virgin scene!"

William
Wordsworth,

American Hazelnut
(*Corylus americana*)



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, www.forestryimages.org

One shrub sure to help increase wildlife value of windbreaks is American hazelnut. The nuts are consumed by deer, turkeys, squirrels, pheasants, grouse and other mammals and birds. The shrubs are also used for nesting and cover; even bats have been known to hang out during the day. Hazels survive best in zones 3 and 4 in MN. The shrub

is adapted to well-drained loams and clays that have a pH range of 6 to 7.5. The multi-stemmed shrub grows up to 10-15 feet with a 10 foot spread. Mature shrubs have medium drought tolerance. Young plants need to be protected from deer predation and competition from grasses and weeds for the first 3 years. Nuts appear about 4 to 5 years after planting.

GYPSY MOTH THREAT

Gypsy Moth: A Growing Concern

Minnesota is gearing up for a possible dramatic increase in gypsy moth infestations in the northeast corridor. Last year Cook County had a dramatic increase in trapped moths and by itself broke the state record accounting for 81% of the numbers of

trapped moths statewide. In comparison, southern MN experience a notable decline in gypsy moth trapped.

In the past, MN eradicated local populations. This year, the state plans to slow the population build-up in Cook using a widespread treatment of a synthetic hormone that attracts males into a

trap, preventing them from mating.

Gypsy moth caterpillars feed May to July attacking under-story shrubs with young moving to tree canopies as they mature. More than 500 plant species serve as hosts. Check out MDA's website: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/gypsymoth.htm>.



Gypsy moth caterpillar. Notice blue and red knobs on body.
CT Ag. Exp. Sta. Archives,
www.forestryimages.org